

## SRC-DBVI<sup>1</sup> Minutes

**Date & Time:** August 21<sup>st</sup> 2024 (10am – 12pm)

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Attendance Key:** P = Present, E = Absent (Excused), A = Absent (Unexcused), TEL = Telephone

Council Members:					
P	Andrew Maclean, <i>Chair</i>	E	Sherry Belka		
P	Allen Kropp, <i>Vice</i>	P	David Emberley		
P	Jessica Cavanaugh	P	Roger Fuller		
E	Amber White	P	Nathanael Batson		
P	*Elissa Rowe <sup>2</sup>	P	Kathy Despres		
P	Darcy Gentle	P	*Isaac Gingras		
P	Nancy Moulton				

**Guests:** Kelly Chadbourne, Diane Frigon, Megan Marquis, Kirsten Connelly, Isabelle Bailly, Jessi Wright,

**Recorder:** Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** October 2024, TBA **Minutes Approved:** Yes

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Introduction	SRC-DBVI meeting was <i>called to order at 10:12</i> : introductions were provided. There were no additions to the meeting agenda.	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>
Public Comment	Public comments were solicited, but none were forthcoming.	<u>NA</u>	<u>NA</u>
Minutes	SRC-DBVI discussed the May 2024 draft minutes, and a correction was identified.  The minutes were then accepted as corrected.	<i>Correct and send May minutes to webmaster for posting.</i>  <i>Create August draft minutes.</i>  <i>Distribute August draft to council members.</i>	<u>Branden Densmore</u>  <u>Branden Densmore</u>  <u>Branden Densmore</u>

<sup>1</sup> State Rehabilitation Council - Division For The Blind And Visually Impaired

<sup>2</sup> \*Indicates Ex Officio, Non-voting member

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Committee Reports	<p><b>Program Assessment:</b> Discussed opportunity for increasing VR application rates.</p> <p>Revised data report provided by Elissa that identified organizations that referred clients to VR, e.g., DHHS, Alpha One, Carrer Center, Adult Ed, etc.</p> <p><i>Note: Organizations with low numbers could be an opportunity for growth.</i></p> <p>The question was asked, <u>what organizations should be added to the list?</u></p> <p><b>Idea:</b> Optometric Associations – In the past SCR-DBVI had booth at Maine Optometry Conference. The Optometrists were unaware of DBVI services offered to “Visually Impaired” individuals. We should have little add with contact info in their newsletters</p> <p><b>Idea:</b> Dog &amp; Pony Show – We could go out on the road (like in the past) explaining VR-DBVI services and SRC-DBVI.</p> <p><b>Idea:</b> Business Engagement People – Contact them, offering to go and speak about services available.</p> <p>Problem: Folks are unaware of services available for “Visually Impaired” people. Solution: Have chart that shows services offered to “Blind” vs. “Visually Impaired”</p>	NONE	NONE

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Committee Report	<p><b>Idea:</b> Ask deaf community what they do, because they have a similar issue with “deaf” vs. “hard of hearing”</p> <p><b>Idea:</b> Could add CDS &amp; DOE<sup>3</sup> to chart in report.</p> <p><b>Idea:</b> Have information tables at dual diagnosis events, health fairs, and new Mainer communities, where we explain the spectrum of blindness and services available.</p> <p><b>Idea:</b> Work on the website. The language needs to be user friendly about the spectrum of visual impairment versus blindness.</p> <p><b><u>Membership/Outreach:</u></b> Discussed ideas on increasing membership.</p> <p><b>Idea:</b> Reach out to industry associations.</p> <p><b>Idea:</b> Reach out to Maine Tourism Association; have booth at tourism workforce summit.</p> <p><b>Idea:</b> Reach out to folks in the state workforce boards.</p> <p><b>Idea:</b> Optometrists do “grand rounds” (Continuing Education) and SRC-DBVI could get information to them during that process somehow.</p>	NONE	NONE

<sup>3</sup> CDS -> Child Development Services, and DOE -> Department Of Education.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Director's Report	<p><b>BEP<sup>4</sup> Update:</b> Good news. Received seven responses from the notice of opportunity that was released. Hired new manager from Mississippi for Cross Café site, The first day of training is today.</p> <p>Another manager was on leave but has rejoined from the county, and they are exploring vending opportunities with him currently.</p> <p>The semiannual training is happening at the end of December.</p> <p>BEP is launching a pilot project with new kiosks that are more accessible.</p> <p><b>Staffing:</b> DBVI Is currently working on their foundation. They have lost 1/3 of staff over past year mostly due to retirement, losing a lot of institutional knowledge.</p> <p>There's a lot of new faces, and there's a steep learning curve. Staff are struggling a bit because they are doing a lot of training plus serving their clients.</p> <p>Peter Diplock just retired, need to hire a new assistant director. Jessica Cavanaugh Was hired into a new leadership position Youth and family support services coordinator. Starts September 9<sup>th</sup></p>	NONE	NONE

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<sup>4</sup> BEP -> Business Enterprise Program.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
<b>Director's Report</b>	<p><b>Boston Bound 2024:</b> Jessica and other DBVI staff had an idea for youth engagement that took off and was a wonderful success.</p> <p>She delivered a presentation with pictures of 6 students who went to Boston with O&amp;M<sup>5</sup> specialists. They visited Harvard and Google, exploring education and career opportunities, learning also how to navigate in the city.</p> <p>The trip excited and energized the youth, and they are exploring becoming spokespersons for transition services.</p>	NONE	NONE
<b>Priority Topics</b>	<p><b>Agency Update:</b> Time was provided for an agency update, but none were forthcoming.</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> Cheryl Peabody left – we lost much knowledge.</p> <p><b>SRC-DBVI Administrator:</b> The Council discussed the administrator job description, and the expansion of Branden Densmore's role within the council.</p> <p><b>Treasurer Opportunity:</b> Allen Kropp moved into Cheryl's past role as Vice-Chair of SRC-DBVI.</p> <p>Currently the council has no Treasurer; there is an opportunity for a council member to step up into a leadership position.</p>	NONE	NONE

<sup>5</sup> O&M -> Orientation and Mobility.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
<b>Priority Topics</b>	<p>Officer Elections are happening in October. Andrew is willing to continue as chair, And Alan is willing to continue as vice chair.</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> Elissa sent an updated report regarding the membership seats and terms of members she acquired from the Boards &amp; Commissions website. This is important for understanding what seats need to be filled, and when members need to submit paperwork for reappointment.</p> <p>Currently there is no membership committee. This needs to be revisited during the October meeting.</p>	<p><i>Those interested in the treasurer opportunity, email Andrew Maclean at <a href="mailto:amaclean@mainephysicians.org">amaclean@mainephysicians.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Compare old membership roster with updated version provided by Elissa.</i></p> <p><i>Create list of prospects and those who applied for membership.</i></p> <p><i>Develop relationship with Rebecca from Secretary Of State Office, the woman responsible for updating the SRC-DBVI member roster online.</i></p>	<p><u>Any Member</u></p> <p><u>Branden Densmore</u></p> <p><u>Branden Densmore</u></p> <p><u>Branden Densmore</u></p>
<b>Announcements</b>	<p>Honorariums are offered to members in attendance who are not otherwise compensated for attendance.</p> <p>The date of October 21<sup>st</sup> for the next meeting won't work. An email will be sent later with more information.</p>	<p><i>Contact Branden to receive honorarium at <a href="mailto:srcscribe@gmail.com">srcscribe@gmail.com</a></i></p> <p><i>Identify October meeting date and send to members.</i></p>	<p><u>Members Not Compensated</u></p> <p><u>Executive Committee</u></p>
<b>Adjournment</b>	Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.	NA	NA

## **People & Organizations Represented**

**Andrew MacLean (Chair) – Maine Medical Association**

**Allen Kropp (Vice Chair) – Drummond Woodsum**

**Elissa Rowe – Division For Blind & Visually Impaired (DBVI)**

**Nancy Moulton – Catholic Charities Maine**

**Kathy Despres – Goodwill Industries**

**David Emberley – Department Of Education (DOE)**

**Kathrina Ringrose – Disability Rights Maine, Client Assistance Program (CAP)**

**Darcy Gentle – Wabanaki Vocational Rehabilitation Program**

**Roger Fuller – Disability Advocate**

**Nathanael Batson – Disability Advocate**

**Isaac Gingras – Maine State Workforce Board**

**Jessica Cavanaugh – Division For Blind & Visually Impaired (DBVI)**

**Megan Marquis – Disability Rights Maine (DRM), Client Assistance Program (CAP)**

**Isabelle Bailey – Division For Blind & Visually Impaired (DBVI)**

**Jessi Wright – Maine CITE**

**Kelly Chadbourne – Maine Parent Federation (MPF)**

**Branden Densmore – SRC Administrator**